

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 8, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

I. Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

III. Chairman's comments

A. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes

IV. Changes to the Agenda

None

V. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None

VI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch said he had two comments, the first concerning the buoy and marker work in Stump Pass. He stated the County Administrator had contacted WCIND and a meeting is scheduled for next week in Venice, and the Commissioner said he was optimistic that the group would pick up the cost of that work. He also indicated his belief that Charlotte County should also be receiving more benefits from WCIND in general, and he is working on that. Commissioner Deutsch also noted that some parking facilities where meters are in place do not entirely pay for themselves, and he is having staff review that; he does not have the details of locations and amounts to maintain vs. income. He indicated he would probably propose that three or four of them be eliminated; if these include boat ramps or other boating facilities, he said he would advise this Committee and the Beaches and Shores Committee before that goes through.

Chair Ireland indicated he thought that a great number of meters had already been shut down, and asked if they have been reactivated; the Commissioner responded that this analysis dates back to 2013, and he had asked to review the 2014 numbers before making a final recommendation. The data is currently being gathered for 2014; he is expecting to have a per-meter breakdown, showing maintenance costs vs income, and the recommendation made will reflect the data. Mr. Harris indicated that MAC had done a study in 2010 and those numbers should be reflected in the minutes from that time; those figures showed maintenance was greater than income for about four or five locations. The Commissioner responded, noting that it is always possible that once meters are removed, activity at that facility will actually increase; the situation is one that remains in flux. Capt. Blago offered his belief that the opportunity to shift fishing patterns is being missed here; free parking at an underused location might encourage more activity there, and freeing up more space

at the crowded locations. There would also be an advantage to being able to advertise that some locations do offer free parking. Commissioner Deutsch agreed with him, noting there always seem to be people fishing from the bridges on nice days, and of course, there are no meters there, people are parking in the swales.

Mr. Hofmeister asked the Commissioner what the total amount of WCIND revenue is that the County collects from residents; Commissioner Deutsch said he had that data, though not with him presently. Mr. Hofmeister suggested that only a small portion comes back to the County; the Commissioner pointed out that there is some portion of the funds that are held in abeyance for emergencies and specific projects. He noted that his interest in connecting Charlotte waterways with those in surrounding counties is that it would provide an edge in funding based on the connectivity. Further discussion ensued on this concept.

VII. Regular Business

- A. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from January 6, 2015 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions. – Approved without objection that the minutes be approved as posted.
- B. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Regular Meeting from December 11, 2014 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions. Approved without objection that the minutes be approved as posted.
- C. MSBU Update
Mr. Matt Logan offered a brief summary of the items on the monthly report which had been provided to members in hard copy. Many items on the Summary were stable with no active projects; others such as Alligator Creek were still in the permitting process with no change reported or agency review not yet completed. Progress was reported on the Gulf Cove Waterways, Harbour Heights and Pirate Harbor projects.

Conditions in Stump Pass were also discussed; with regard to the recently-reported shoaling, Mr. Logan commented on the recent work done by Coastal Engineering. Chair Ireland asked who would receive the \$300,000 reimbursement Mr. Logan had mentioned; Mr. Logan indicated it would come back to the County. Ms. Buck asked about Stump Pass, how closely the navigation aids are being monitored; Mr. Logan was not aware of any staff person who had been detailed to monitor the area, but indicated that Coastal Engineering would be going out on a quarterly basis to keep an eye on things. Ms. Buck recommended more attention be paid to it, based on the County's emphasis on attracting new boaters to the area; Chair Ireland wondered whether a complete bathymetric survey was required every time information was requested, and asked if reports from local fishermen were being considered. Mr. Logan responded that the bathymetric survey was the most accurate way to determine where the safe channel was, but the members noted that the accuracy was not long term and conditions changed rapidly and radically. Further discussion ensued on reporting options less costly and complicated than an actual bathymetric survey.

Mr. Ludvig asked about the pilings that had been mentioned at the last meeting that needed to be dealt with, and noted they were not included in the Mr. Logan's report; he asked what the status was on that work. Mr. Logan apologized, noting he had not yet gotten that information from the Signing and Marking staff who would be dealing with it; he promised to bring an update on that next month.

Commissioner Deutsch said he'd been receiving cost information which, at present, seemed to be coming in at about \$20,000, and he hoped to have WCIND funds to cover this. Ms. Buck asked who should be called to report if a boater sees that it's moved: Sheriff's Office? Marine Office? Mr. Logan said people could contact him, and he would push it along; he provided his number for that purpose.

- D. Budget Update – Mr. David Johnston provided his update on Budget, indicating there was a written report as well, covering fourth quarter 2014 FY. A copy of Mr. Johnston's report is attached to these minutes.

While the report was being handed out, Chair Ireland asked if there had been any appreciable decrease in funds coming in from boat registrations, and Mr. Johnston indicated that there had been no decrease; on the contrary, he said, it had been holding steady and he expected to see an increase. Mr. Johnston also reported on the willingness WCIND had expressed to increase funding as additional needs were identified.

Commissioner Deutsch commented that as the Committee begins their review of the grant applications, he anticipated Mr. Johnston providing the extended graph sheet, showing what's been paid, what's been allocated, etc., which he indicated was a great help. Mr. Johnston confirmed it would be available. Mr. Harris complimented Mr. Johnston's efforts on behalf of the Committee and tracking their funds. This led to a brief discussion about the probable return of the trestle project as something that needs to be handled, and paid for. Mr. Johnston offered additional comments on the budget information, indicating that the members might want to identify improvement projects as well as maintenance projects. Mr. Harris asked how much had gone into Stump Pass since the last dredging; Mr. Johnston wasn't certain of the total amount, though Mr. Harris estimated it might be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. Further discussion ensued on this topic, and Mr. Johnston indicated he would prepare a report on the subject. Ms. Buck thanked Mr. Johnston for his efforts; she asked for clarification on which website he was referring to when he mentioned the applications being available online; Mr. Johnston confirmed he was referring to the Charlotte County Government website, on the MAC page.

VIII. New Business

Timeline for replacement of swing bridge and ICW closures – No staff members stepped forward to comment on this item; Commissioner Deutsch commented that the Bridge management is separate from the County. He indicated that as he understands it, the bridge cannot be closed but has to be openable at some time during the day; Mr. De Bruler commented to this point, noting that the bridge cannot close for boat traffic. The Coast Guard mandates that it can be closed for car traffic, as long as boats can travel through at any time that they reasonably request. This bridge is run by GIBA (Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority) and is currently being worked on (the stanchions); this work has been ongoing for perhaps the last eight months during which time the second and third spans of the bridge have been replaced, and the height of the second span has been increased. The new swing bridge will be higher. Mr. De Bruler offered to call GIBA to get more precise information on their timeline, etc.

Chair Ireland asked Mr. De Bruler to continue and comment on the current status of the shrimp boat (an item under Old Business) and why the group needs to

keep talking about it. Mr. De Bruler recapped, saying the idea had been to find out the owner's agenda for the vessel, since he had backed out of a deal agreed to, which was that the County would take ownership of the vessel once it hit the bottom at the reef site, and help him in preparing it for a Coast Guard-approved inspection for reefing it. Mr. De Bruler gave additional details about how that deal had fallen apart, because the boat owner had been trying to get money for his part in the process, rather than just take a tax write-off. Mr. De Bruler was asked at the last MAC meeting to try to reestablish contact with the gentlemen, but said his calls had not been returned; he said he would continue to pursue the matter and keep the Committee updated. Chair Ireland asked if he could give an estimate on what it would take to make the vessel ready for the reefing process; Mr. De Bruler indicated it would need removal of all oil, the motor and generator. Further discussion ensued about the condition of the vessel and the extent of what might be needed. The consensus at this point was that it was probably a dead issue, and that Mr. De Bruler should not waste a lot of time on it.

Beaches and Shores Liaison: Volunteer / Discussion. Chair Ireland noted that it had been suggested that there should be a liaison between MAC and BSAC; the issue is that they meet at the same day and time as the MAC pre-agenda meetings, which limits the options. Nonetheless, a volunteer is being sought to attend the BSAC meetings, and report back on their discussions. Mr. Hamilton said he understood there had been a suggestion that the responsibility be rotated through the MAC membership, so that eventually all members would have had an opportunity over the course of a couple of years to attend the BSAC meetings. He indicated that he felt this should be a formal proposal; Chair Ireland agreed it was a good suggestion, and was just looking for one person to start that cycle. This proposal was briefly discussed and the Chair said he would put together a list to get things going, communicate with the person at the top of the list and get a commitment for the month of March.

It was recognized that Commissioner Deutsch already attends both meetings, but he declined the appointment, to much merriment; he noted that he is occasionally required to miss the Advisory Committee meetings when things like Budget hearings intervene. Mr. Harris pointed out that the minutes of BSAC meetings would need to be sent to MAC members so that the MAC member needing to go could get up to speed; he also expressed some concern about continuity. It was noted that the MAC recording secretary served both committees and it was requested that the BSAC minutes go to MAC members as well. Ms. Buck asked about the Joint Workshop on February 4th; she asked if BSAC was having a February meeting in addition to the Workshop. Commissioner Deutsch indicated they would not, and commented on the fact that the Joint Workshop would stand in for that. Ms. Buck said she would volunteer to be liaison for the March BSAC meeting.

Chair Ireland announced the relocation of the Joint Workshop from B-106 to the Mid County Library, where it has been before.

IX. Old Business

- a. Shrimp Boat – Andy Stevens / Roger de Bruler (had been moved up in the agenda order.)
- b. Update on Bay Heights Project – Andy Stevens – Chair Ireland noted that Mr. Stevens was not present to comment on this matter; Mr. De Bruler indicated he had come with Mr. Roger Warner who would be able to address the matter. Mr.

Warner indicated the matter was in review with the National Fisheries Services which has completed two of the four phases; it is expected that an additional two to four months would be required for completion of the review. Then the Coast Guard will approve the new marker for the area; additionally, plans for County stormwater review have been submitted and that review should wrap up in a couple of weeks. There has also been final Site Plan Review approval given on Dec. 24th. Chair Ireland asked whether there was any timetable for project completion; Mr. Warner indicated that the construction timetable was generally a year from receipt of final permits. Capt. Blago commented on this simple project taking five years; he felt the extensive permit requirements failed to recognize that the site is next to a marina where boats already go in and out all the time. Commissioner Deutsch responded that the County was constrained by the bureaucratic process and its requirements, and everyone finds it frustrating. Mr. Harris responded to the Commissioner, noting that MAC had originally recommended that the site simply be made into a park with no boat ramp. Further discussion ensued on these points.

X. Other Business

Introduction and acceptance of John Dauster, Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club - Mr. Dauster was not present, but Chair Ireland commented on his appointment to fill the seat left vacant when Mr. Wilson resigned.

Ms. Buck commented on the video of the lighted boat parade, and her experience at the event. She noted that the numbers of participants were doubled over last year. She also spoke about the Charlotte Harbor Regatta, noting the history of the event, participation by groups from all over the country, and reminding members that this year's even will take place on February 6-8th. She invited everyone to attend. Finally, she recognized Chuck Mopps in the audience.

Mary McMurray spoke regarding the results of the fecal coliform testing at Chadwick Park; she noted the value of 11 which she said was relatively low. Another test was done on the first Monday in January, and spoke about the factors that can affect test results, and noting they would continue to do testing. If any future results are alarming, she said, they will go to the next level in the process; she also gave locations of testing stations. Answering a question from the Chair, Ms. McMurray indicated the reading of 11 from Chadwick Cove was on a scale going up to 200; for comparison, she noted, the readings from Gottfried Creek when it was bad was in the 2,000 range. Information was also provided about the cost of the testing materials. Ms. Buck about whether any testing was being done in the Harbor or up the Peace River; Ms. McMurray said that she would research that and email her findings. Mr. Harris commented on long-term use of the device she had described and what sorts of data could be retrieved from it; Chair Ireland asked how much it costs to move such a device. Discussion continued on the technical details of the testing process, including the limitations of what the data shows.

Mr. Harris made the suggestion that if the same group of people come to this year's workshop as came to last years joint meeting, the subject of Chadwick Cove should be taken off the agenda; discussion ensued on this suggestion, with Commissioner Deutsch suggesting this is a question for the County Attorney to the extent that there are Sunshine Law concerns. The committee members indicated they had not yet proposed the agenda items for that workshop. Chair Ireland reminded the group that the Joint event will be a workshop, not a

meeting and that it might be easier to delete a subject from a workshop. He asked for a show of hands of those likely to attend and expressed satisfaction at the result.

XI. Citizen Comments

- None offered.

XII. Good of the Order

- Parks & Recreation Joint Workshop will be at 1 p.m. on Feb. 4, 2015. This is a workshop, not a meeting, no quorum required, but it is requested that everyone please attend.

XIII. Next Meetings

- The Joint Workshop will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, at the Mid County Regional Library.
- The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in B-106.
- The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

XIV. Adjournment

On motion made and unanimously accepted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.